



# MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

July 13, 2007

## *News from the Chief*

Thursday's Morning Star Sanctuary Golf Classic, which benefited both the domestic violence shelter and Officer Danita Marsh, was a tremendous success! Danita and Morning Star each received \$20,000 thanks to the caring persons who joined Sheriff Daron Hall and me at Hermitage Golf Course. This year's event featured 38 golf teams, nearly double the participation of last year. Danita was on hand, looked great, and enjoyed meeting the citizens who, by giving of their afternoon, showed their concern for her.

This event would not have been possible without the hard work and coordinated efforts of Mike Eller from the Hermitage Golf Course, North Precinct Commander Louise Kelton, and 100 Club President Reed Trickett. I am also extremely grateful to WSIX radio's Gerry House, who not only promoted the golf tournament on his program, but who also showed his support of Danita and the police department by playing in the tournament.

While at the Hermitage Golf Course, I was receiving regular updates on the arrest/investigation of suspected serial killer Bruce Mendenhall. Simply outstanding police work by Sergeant Pat Postiglione, his colleagues in the Homicide/Cold Case Unit, and detectives at the Central Precinct ultimately led to Mendenhall's arrest. I thank Pat and all the investigators involved for their tremendous efforts.

Through the first week of July, overall major crime in Nashville is about even with the first half of 2006 (overall major crime in 2006 was at a 16-year low). Officers and professional support staff throughout the department are doing incredible work. Thank you all for your dedication and professionalism.



**Pictured (l-r) are Chief Serpas, Officer Danita Marsh, Sheriff Hall, tournament sponsor Connie Elder of Connie Elder International, and tournament co-chair Linda Johnson.**

## **Happenings**

Chief Ronal Serpas and 100 Club President Reed Trickett today presented plaques and chief's coins to members of the department's Drill and Ceremony Team who brought home national championship honors from the fifth annual Honor Guard Competition in Washington, D.C.

The event, held on May 14, was sponsored by the Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and involved 21 drill and ceremony teams from across the United States and Canada.

The 100 Club financed the purchase of the Drill and Ceremony Team's uniforms.



**Pictured (l-r) are Reed Trickett, Lt. Ben Rodgers, Officer Jimmy Knight, Officer Leonard Keeler, Sergeant Chris West, Officer Chad High, Officer Brian Doersam, Officer Ryan Catron, Officer James Boone, and Chief Serpas.**

North Precinct Sergeant John Drake received a commendation yesterday at the Nashville Fire Department's annual award ceremony for his heroic efforts in saving at least six lives when a fire erupted at Riverwood Apartments on Cabot Drive in February.

Sergeant Drake was searching for a missing girl when he noticed a burning apartment building and rushed to the scene. Fortunately, no one was home at the primary apartment or the one above it. Both units were destroyed. Sergeant Drake quickly turned his attention to the apartments adjacent to the units on fire, pounding on the doors and evacuating a woman and a young girl from a ground floor unit and a man and three boys from an upstairs unit.

Since schools were closed, many of the evacuees were sleeping in, and fire officials credit Sergeant Drake for getting them out of their apartments.



Together we make a difference.  
Juntos hacemos la diferencia.

The Metro Police Department's El Protector Program, which strives to provide crime information and build trust with Nashville's Latino community, unveiled its new logo Wednesday during a celebration in the South Precinct's community room at 5101 Harding Place.

The logo, which was created by Glencliff High School student Naillet Perez during art class competition, will appear on all El Protector printed materials. Chief Serpas and members of the community-based El Protector Board of Directors presented Perez with \$200. Germany Butler, whose El Protector drawing came in second, received \$150. Danielle Ogle, the third place artist, received \$100.

Officers Juan Borges (South Precinct) and Rafael Fernandez (Hermitage Precinct) are dedicated to the El Protector program, which began in 2004. Both are fluent in Spanish and regularly attend Latino community meetings, as well as make frequent appearances on Hispanic radio stations.





**Chief Serpas and South Precinct Commander Rick Lankford are pictured with the winners of the El Protector logo competition. Pictured (top l-r) are first prize winner Naillet Perez, runner up Germany Butler, and third place artist Danielle Ogle**



**Session 54 training on the gun range.**



**Session 55 began their training session on July 2.**



# *1<sup>st</sup> Annual Law Enforcement Talent Showcase*

## **Do you have talent?**

We are currently in the planning stages of the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Law Enforcement Talent Showcase. This year, the event will be sponsored by the Nashville Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV). The proceeds from this event will be split between the NCADV and Danita Marsh. The event will be held at the Wild Horse Saloon on Monday, October 22, 2007, and will be open to the public. Entertainers must be law enforcement employees (sworn or civilian). This is a great opportunity to raise money for a good cause.

This is not a contest, but a celebration of talent. No admission fee. Donations accepted at the door.

If you are interested and have talent (or know someone who has talent) please contact me via email [marlene.pardue@nashville.gov](mailto:marlene.pardue@nashville.gov) , or phone (862-7501 or 862-7329) as soon as possible to let me know you would like to participate.

Thank you,  
Capt. J. Marlene Pardue  
Youth Services Division

### **The Precinct News**

#### **Hermitage**

Two robbery suspects were arrested shortly after they beat their 21-year-old victim and stole his BMX bicycle. The two suspects ages 19 and 13, were taken into custody by Officer Derrick Hutchinson who also located the bicycle and returned it to the victim.

Officers Shannon Hamm and Mark Miracle stopped a motorist for not wearing his seatbelt when further investigation uncovered he had an outstanding warrant. He was taken into custody. Seized in a subsequent search were 30 pills and a loaded pistol.

## **South**

Outstanding police work led to the arrest of three suspects who are charged with robbing a Sonic carhop at gunpoint. Their getaway van was spotted moments later by members of the Gang Unit who followed the suspects until they stopped in an apartment complex where they were taken into custody.

A traffic stop by Officer Jason Kausch on Nolensville Pike led to the seizure of 52 hydrocodone pills, two loaded handguns, and two loaded shotguns. Officer Kausch pulled the driver over for a seatbelt violation. The driver smelled of alcohol and had an open container of beer inside the vehicle.

Three of the weapons were found in the driver's trunk. A handgun was discovered in the center console beneath a baggie of hydrocodone pills. The suspect was charged with felony drug possession and possession of a handgun while under the influence.

## **East**

Two people arrived at the scene of a traffic accident on Interstate 65 to pick up someone who was involved in the crash. Officer Brad Bracey began to talk to them when he detected a strong odor of marijuana.

During a subsequent search of the car and suspects, Officers Bracey and Melissa Schultz seized a loaded handgun, 87 grams of marijuana, a set of digital scales, and \$3,950 cash.

## **North**

Outstanding teamwork led to four juveniles admitting their involvement in a residential burglary. Officers responded to a home on Crowe Drive where the suspects had kicked in the basement door and stolen money, clothing, and electronic equipment.

Officer Ken O'Neal obtained a partial latent print from the door.

The victim told officers that she thought she knew the suspects. Officers spoke with family members of one of the suspects and recovered a computer and stereo.

Officers Joshua Lunn and O'Neal responded to this location and contacted Detective Robert Swisher. Three additional suspects were developed and all four (two 15-year-olds, one 14-year-old, and one 17-year-old) confessed to the burglary after being interviewed by Detective Swisher.

Officers continue to proactively patrol troubled areas.

Officers saw two young men outside a suspected drug house. Officers approached one of the men and found he had a handgun under his shirt and was in possession of 18 grams of



marijuana. The second suspect had a pistol in plain view in his vehicle. Both men were taken into custody.

Alert police work led to charges against three suspected vandals. Officer Bridget Griepentrog saw two young men and a juvenile spray painting a building on Brawner Avenue. One adult was charged with vandalism and the other issued a citation. The 15-year-old vandal was taken to the Juvenile Detention Center.

Two convicted felons were arrested after Officers Justin Pachciarz and Joshua Lunn quickly responded to a shots fired call on Indiana Avenue where they spotted the suspect vehicle. The officers stopped the car on Clifton Avenue and in a subsequent search seized two weapons. Both suspects are charged with felon in possession of a handgun.

## **Central**

Outstanding police work by Central Precinct Officer Doug Williams led to the apprehension of Williamson County murder suspect James Hubert Thompson.

Thompson, 60, is accused of killing his father. Central Precinct officers received information that Thompson was in the Lafayette Street area. Patrol cars flooded the vicinity, but saw no sign of Thompson. Officer Williams, believing that Thompson may have fled south due to the heightened police presence, drove down Murfreesboro Pike and spotted the suspect near Blanton Avenue. Thompson gave Williams a false name; however, the tattoos on Thompson's arm let Williams know that he had the right man. Thompson, who had a bottle of vodka hidden in the front of his pants, briefly resisted arrest before Williams took him into custody. Williamson County authorities responded to the scene and transported Thompson to Franklin.

Flex officers continued to provide a highly visible presence in the downtown area in an effort to deter criminal activity and provide a safe environment. Officers concentrated much of their efforts in the Lafayette Street area.

## **Homicide Unit**

Homicide detectives Thursday afternoon arrested an over-the-road truck driver and suspected serial killer for the shooting death of Sara Nicole Hulbert, whose body was found at 12:40 a.m. on June 26 in a parking lot of Truck Stops of America on North 1st Street.

Bruce Mendenhall, 56, of Albion, Illinois, is this evening being charged with criminal homicide.

Detective Sergeant Pat Postiglione, while traveling to the Truck Stops of America location late Thursday morning to conduct a follow up interview in the Hulbert murder, saw a

tractor-trailer rig on Dickerson Pike that generally matched the description of a truck being sought for investigation in the case. Postiglione followed the truck into the Truck Stops of America parking lot. Once the rig parked, Postiglione approached the driver's door and knocked. Mendenhall got out of the truck and appeared nervous. After asking a few questions, Postiglione asked Mendenhall if he could look inside the truck. Mendenhall consented. Postiglione saw what appeared to be blood in the vehicle and detained Mendenhall for further investigation.

During questioning at the Justice Center, Mendenhall gave statements implicating himself in Hulbert's murder. Knowing that there were certain similarities between the Hulbert case and other recent homicides in the south, Postiglione asked Mendenhall if he had knowledge concerning those. He implicated himself in the murder of Symantha Winters, 48, of Nashville, who was found shot to death on June 6 in a trash container at the Pilot Truck Stop in Lebanon, as well as one homicide in Alabama, one in Georgia, and two in Indiana. The Metropolitan Police Department is in contact with those agencies regarding statements made today by Mendenhall.

"The Hulbert case was assigned to the centralized Homicide Unit at headquarters due to the potential that a serial killer was involved," Chief Ronal Serpas said. "A tremendous amount of work has gone into this case by Sergeant Postiglione, Detective Lee Freeman and their Central Precinct colleagues over the past two weeks. I am extremely proud of their professionalism and dedication."

Mendenhall's truck has been impounded and is being processed by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

## **Blue Notes**

### **Hermitage Precinct**

Commander Michelle Richter

The Hermitage Precinct, located at 3701 James Kay Lane, became operational on March 1st, 2001. It was established to meet the needs of the growing community in the Hermitage and surrounding areas. Captain Tommy McBride was the first leader of the precinct and I assumed command May of 2004.

Currently, Hermitage is the third largest precinct, and covers approximately 110 miles of the eastern part of Davidson County. This area includes the Metro Nashville Airport, Opryland Convention Center, Opry Mills Mall, the JC Napier public housing development, Old Hickory Lake/ Dam, Percy Priest Lake/Dam, and numerous parks which surround the lake area. The precinct is also known for its diverse population.

This area is serviced by the following units which are based in the precinct: Patrol, El Protector, Community Coordinator, Investigations, Crime Suppression, Flex, Bikes, Motors, Traffic, School Resource Officers, and Crime Prevention. The precinct is staffed with two secretaries who are also vital to the success of the operation.

In November 2005 the El Protector program was expanded to the Hermitage Precinct due to the large number of Hispanic residents in the area. The program was needed to assist us with increasing our ability to communicate with Hispanic residents. Officer Fernandez was assigned to this position and is an excellent community contact person.

During its six years of operation, Hermitage lost one of its officers to injuries sustained while on duty. On July 19th, 2004, Officer Christy Dedman was killed after she was struck by a tractor trailer on I-40. At the time, she was assisting a stranded motorist on the side of the interstate. A memorial has been established on the precinct grounds to honor her, and other fallen officers, who gave their lives in the service of this community. It stands near the front entrance to the precinct to remind everyone of the dedication of the members of this department.

The Hermitage Precinct Staff of 2006 were awarded for leading the precincts in Proactive/Self-Initiated Police Actions for that year. It was noted that the precinct had shown a trend in that category for several years. The award was attributed to all of their hard work and dedication.

Sincerely,  
Commander Michelle Richter

### **Human Resource Section**

Human Resource Manager Suzanne Bibb

Please read the following notice concerning retirement calculations from Metro Human Resources Director Dorothy Shell Berry:

The PERC (Pension Earnings Repository Calculator), pronounced “Percy”, project is a benefit initiative sponsored by the Employee Benefit Board to calculate and automate pension benefits in a more timely, efficient and accurate manner for Metro employees. The project has also enabled Metro Human Resources to start sending out annual pension benefit statements to all eligible Metro employees. Starting on Thursday, July 5th and continuing once a month through October 2007, eligible Metro General Government and Fire and Police employees will receive a statement with their estimated accrued pension benefit through December 31, 2006. Eligible MNPS employees will not begin to receive their statements until 2008.

Since this is the first time a project of this type has been undertaken, HR has set up a special phone line just for PERC-related inquiries. If your employees have questions regarding their PERC statements, please direct them to call 862-4277 for assistance. Please note that this is not the general HR line, but will be more geared toward answering questions from employees about the pension benefit statements they are receiving.

We appreciate your patience as we roll out this entirely new initiative. Furthermore, we hope you find your own PERC statement to be useful and informative. We feel that this is



another step toward our goal of continuing to offer improved and enhanced benefit options to all Metro employees.

## **Fiscal**

Finance Manager William Walker

### Fiscal Year End Reminders:

- Review Metro Payment Services on a daily basis.
- Make sure to have all invoices submitted by July 20 with an invoice date of June 30.
- Invoices requiring an approved Form 184 must be submitted to the Fiscal Affairs Division by July 16.
- All Fiscal Year 2007 outstanding travel claims need to be submitted to Fiscal by July 11.
- All Fiscal Year 2007 outstanding mileage reimbursement forms need to be submitted to Payroll by July 11.
- Submit all Petty Cash and Imprest cash request for FY 2007 to the Fiscal Affairs by July 16.
- Itemized Receipts for Meals – For all Pcard purchases and any meal over \$25 regardless of type of payment.
- Metro changed banks and is now with First Tennessee Bank

## **Congratulations:**

Lieutenant James Huggins, Hermitage Precinct, and his wife Joanne, are the proud parents of Aubrey Nicole, born July 2.

Lieutenant Bill Sneed, Training Division, and his wife Beth, are the proud parents of Gregory Carson, born July 11.



## **Condolences:**

Mr. Gilbert Eckard, Jr., father in-law of Sergeant Gregory Blair, East Precinct, passed away July 1.

Mr. James Brown, Jr., father of Detective James Brown, Auto Theft Unit, passed away July 2.

Mr. Homer "Boots" Randolph, grandfather of Officer Kenneth O'Neal, North Precinct, passed away July 3.

Ms. Laura Cantrell, the grandmother of Officer William Stone, South Precinct, passed away recently.

Mr. Andrea Harakas, father of Lieutenant Andrea Swisher, Central Precinct, and father-in-law of Detective Robert Swisher, North Precinct, passed away July 12.

Mr. Donald Duncan, father of Sergeant Jason Duncan, Specialized Investigations Division, passed away July 13.